

"He had a hand or influence on every lawyer in the state for 35 years," said Thomas Barnett, executive director of the South Dakota Bar Association in Pierre.

Sahr, 71, who was serving as secretary-treasurer of the State Bar Association, died Monday, Dec. 4, 1995, at his home, due to lung cancer.

"He had a history of over 30 years in Bar leadership," said Barnett. "I was fortunate to work with him through most of my career."

During his career, Sahr, through the Bar Association, established the nation's first prepaid continuing legal education; he spearheaded legislative approval for passage of funding for a new University of South Dakota Law School; and worked for improvement of judicial compensation.

He also introduced the first bill for a state employee retirement system. "This was a biggie for the state," said Sahr's son, Dan of Sioux Falls. "Before that there was nothing for state employees."

Barnett said, "He worked to serve the people of South Dakota. He was instrumental in lobbying pieces that helped everybody."

Beresford attorney Robert "Bob" Frieberg acknowledged Sahr's contribution to the state.

"His influence shaped the Bar, judiciary and modern legal system in South Dakota," he said. "His was the biggest influence of a single person."

Frieberg said that Sahr was committed to improve the legal system whenever he could.

Although he didn't know for sure, Frieberg believed that Sahr had a sense that he had an obligation to leave the world better than he found it.

"He was just a neat guy," he said. "One of a kind. I'm gonna miss him."

With a tear sliding down his face, Frieberg added, "He was a great friend."

Sahr's legal career began in 1957, when he opened a law practice in Pierre. He served for two terms as the Hughes County States Attorney, from 1958 to 1962. He then served two terms in the South Dakota House of Representatives, from 1962 to 1967. He was elected in 1961 as secretary-treasurer of the state Bar. He retired on July 31, 1989, from his position as executive director of the Bar Association, after 28 years with the organization.

William Karcher Sahr was born July 21, 1924, in Pierre. He attended Pierre Public School and was graduated from Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, Ill., in 1942.

He served in the Army from 1943 to 1946, during World War II. He served in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the European Medal with four Battle Stars.

In 1954, he graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and from its law school in 1957.

He married Carla Aplan in 1953.

From 1973 to 1978, he was a member of the Pierre Board of Education. He also served on the St. Mary's Hospital Law Advisory Board, president of the Pierre Carnegie Library Board for 19 years, and on the Pierre City Board of Adjustment for 10 years.

He was a member of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, VFW, the Elks Club, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, the American Bar Association, the Jackrabbit Bar Association, and the National Association of Bar Executives.

He received a Recognition Award from the University of South Dakota Law School in 1982, the Appreciation Award from the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association, and the McKusick Award from the USD School of Law in 1987.

"He was proud of this," Dan Sahr said, of his father receiving the McKusick Award.

The award recognizes an outstanding member of the South Dakota legal community for contributions to the profession.

In addition to his wife and son, survivors include four other children: James, Los Angeles; Marguerite Moreland, Littleton, Colo.; Elizabeth Squyer, Sioux Falls; and Robert, Boulder, Colo.

Services, for Sahr, begin at 11 a.m. Thursday in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Pierre, with burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Feigum Funeral Home in Pierre. Prayer service begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to the Countryside Hospice of Pierre or to the South Dakota Law School Foundation.

#### THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, almost 4 years ago I commenced these daily reports to the Senate to make a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of the close of business the previous day.

As of the close of business Wednesday, December 6, the Federal debt stood at exactly \$4,988,640,469,699.34. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,936.97 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

#### FLAG PROTECTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I strongly support Senate Joint Resolution 31, which amends the Constitution to protect the flag of the United States from those who would desecrate it.

The American flag is a national symbol of the values this country was founded on. Many Americans have fought and died to defend these values and this country. It is an insult to these patriots, their relatives, and all other citizens who hold this country dear, to burn or desecrate the symbol of our Nation and our freedom.

I certainly support the right of all citizens to freedom of speech, but that right has never been absolute in our country. That is why there are laws against libel, slander, perjury, and obscenity. Similarly, our freedom of political expression is also limited. No one can legally deface the Supreme Court building or the Washington Monument, no matter how much he or she might wish to protest a particular government policy or law. The American flag, deserves special protection under the Constitution. It simply is not necessary to commit an act of violence against this flag to register protest against the Government. Passage of Senate Joint Resolution 31 will help ensure our national symbol receives the respect and protection it deserves.

Again, Mr. President, I offer my strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 31 and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

#### REV. RICHARD C. HALVERSON

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, our former Senate Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Richard Halverson, will be sorely missed, especially by those of us who

had the great privilege of knowing him and benefiting from his special ministry.

His daily prayers and his words of greeting, whenever we met, were most comforting. History should record that as a result of his guidance, many unfortunate adversarial crises were successfully averted in the Senate. I believe he succeeded to helping maintain the Senate on an even keel.

We will miss him. I will miss him.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—CON- FERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2076.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2076) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of December 1, 1995.)

Mr. GREGG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to proceed today with the conference report on the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations.

This legislation comes forward after a considerable amount of activity and, obviously, some ups and downs on the road to passage. It is, however, I believe, an excellent piece of legislation in light of the hand which has been dealt. Clearly, in an attempt to balance this budget, we have had to make some significant reductions in this account overall in order to meet our goal of a balanced budget within 7 years. The numbers which were assigned to us by the Budget Committee and then allocated to us by the Appropriations Committee put us to the test in the area of trying to reach this goal. But I believe we have reached it in a very positive and responsible way.

The essential thrust of this bill is to make sure that we adequately fund the activities of our criminal justice system and to make sure that we have